

L-0008

1429 Home St.

Walla Walla, WA 99362

May 1, 2003

Yvonne Sherman
USDOE-Richland
P.O. Box 550, A7-75
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Ms Sherman:

I am alarmed that truckloads of radioactive and chemical waste are headed for Hanford.

1 Not one ounce of radioactive and chemical waste should go to Hanford until every bit already there is cleaned up. This is absolutely the highest priority to protect the health of those who live near.

This extreme danger to citizens of Oregon and Washington must be stopped.

Sincerely,

Mary Patton

Mary Patton



River Ford Farm

Victor & Phyllis Clausen
37 Stoller Road
Trout Lake, Washington 98650

E-mail: clausen@gorge.net

Telephone (509) 395 2243

Fax (509) 395 2016

May 7, 2003

Michael Collins
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550, A6-38
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Mr. Collins:

- 1** | I am writing to express my opposition to the USDOE plan to ship 70,000 truckloads of radioactive waste to Hanford. It is unconscionable that Washington state residents should be obliged to act over and over again to keep more waste from being poured into that site. It is clear that USDOE is determined never to let go of Hanford as a place to dump more nuclear materials.
- 2** | What we ask is that the present contamination be cleaned up so that the Columbia River will not be polluted. And that USDOE discontinue its efforts to increase the loads of radioactive waste moving to Hanford. We have borne an unfair burden in the past for the sake of the entire nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Phyllis I. Clausen". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.


Phyllis I. Clausen

3 May 2003

Dear Mr. Collins,

I am a voter and a citizen of WA state. I am writing to encourage the Department of energy not to go forward with the Hanford Solid Waste EIS. The current Plan fails to adequately address citizen's concerns. Dumping more radioactive waste at Hanford increases risk to human health and to commerce by contaminating the Columbia River.

Please do not import more waste to Hanford.

Sincerely,

Reed O'Beirne

Reed O'Beirne
2854 - 21st Ave. W.
Seattle, WA 98199
206.284.6940

L-0011

520 S. First Street
Walla Walla, WA 99362
May 8, 2003

USDOE Richland Operation Office
P.O. Box 550
MSIN A6-38
Richland, WA 99352
Attn: Michael Collins

Having recently been involved the public involvement efforts of a large, multi-regional, multi-agency federal EIS process I find your efforts to inform the public about the RDEIS for the Hanford Solid Waste Program severely lacking. Although I may have missed it in my evening peruse through the Walla Walla Union Bulletin, I have seen no news release or information about the opportunity for public comment here in the Walla Walla area and only heard about the public comment period through other sources.

- 1** In addition, a mere 45-day comment period barely gives people enough time to read, let alone digest a 3,000 page bureaucratic document! But you know this. I can tell you that comment periods for any large document like that in my agency are a minimum of 120-days, and we issue hundreds of EISs a year. The effort I was involved in generated 76,000 comments over a 335-day comment period. The fact that you only received 3,800 comments on the original draft EIS tells me you did not complete adequate public involvement at that time. ***I would strongly encourage you to extend your comment period for at least another 90 days and make additional efforts to inform the public of this opportunity.***

The fact that you are holding only six public meetings across the region is also disturbing. It appears that you have tried to cover the travel ways in your choice of locations, but the population base you need to be reaching cannot be served in six meetings at scattered locations. Your proposal affects a wide-ranging rural population and ***if you have not considered additional public meetings so many people in the out-lying areas can attend without having to travel hundreds of miles you need to do so.*** I believe your public involvement plan may meet minimum NEPA requirements but probably does not meet the requirements for Executive Order 12898 for Environmental Justice. As an agency you must show more responsibility in this effort, you manage a federal facility that has the capability to bring great harm to a large population. They need to be well informed.

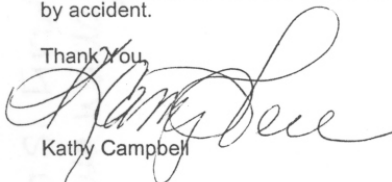
- 2** As far as the proposed action itself, I have only read some of your summary document and have not read the EIS. I have lived in Walla Walla for 20 years and I understand that Hanford continues to generate nuclear waste. I have always had a concern with how that waste is stored and believe it is one issue that many people living in the Tri-Cities continually choose to ignore. Although I know people who do, I would never even consider any recreational activities in the Columbia River, as I am sure any extended exposure is hazardous to human health. Waste storage is an issue that needs to be specifically addressed for the waste already on the site. Burying it in trenches and storage tanks that are subject to rotting out is not the answer.

- 3** I believe that Hanford should continue to focus on the clean-up efforts that have been ongoing and find an environmentally sound method of waste disposal for the material on-site ***only***. The facility is too close to the Columbia River and major population centers to risk bringing in additional waste from other sites. I strongly oppose transportation of any waste from off-site:

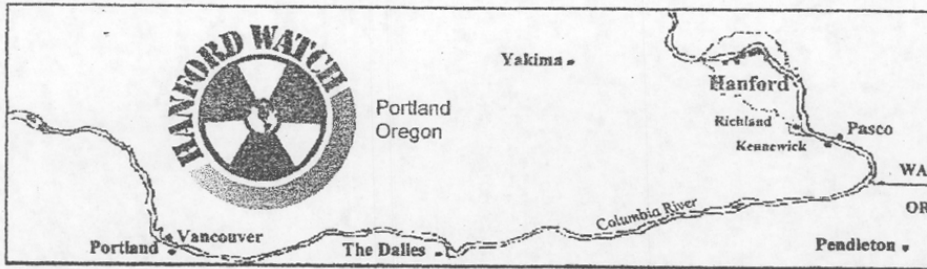
- 4** I do not follow these issues very closely on a continuing basis, but I believe off-site waste now has a designated place somewhere in the forsaken state of Nevada and that may be the best place for it. Nevada is certainly less populated and fewer people would possibly be impacted in case of some type of accident. In addition, the ground water and possible contamination of bodies of water are probably a lesser risk in Nevada. Of course the best solution is to STOP GENERATING THE WASTE!

I appreciate the opportunity to comment, but do not appreciate hearing about this through word of mouth and by accident.

Thank You



Kathy Campbell



www.hanfordwatch.org

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT HANFORD SOLID WASTE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, MAY 13, 2003

1

Many of the possible solutions for treating, storing or burying solid wastes from other weapons sites at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation appear to embody some the public's values expressed over the years and at last summer's first hearings on this EIS. However, our buy-off on whatever alternative you decide upon rests upon our ability to trust the promises of the Department of Energy. This is difficult at a time when the DOE stops cleanup work, based on a directive from the Washington Department of Ecology because you "must comply". Yet over the years and even in this new document, you capriciously pick and chose which laws to comply with, and which to change without going through the proper legal steps.

2

Most of the alternatives to disposal, transportation and treatment of waste is based on assumptions. You state in different places in this EIS that the amount of waste that will be brought in is uncertain, unknown. That the long-term performance of our waste site remedies and closure techniques are unproven. That your risk modeling tool, the Systems Assessment Capability (SAC), is still very young, emerging; that each human's response to dose or exposure is uncertain. In other words, it all evens out according to your assumptions and modeling, thus the impacts of bringing more waste into Hanford are "minimal"—so benign—not to worry. Even cumulative impacts are painted as "small", but you also state that the SAC risk model has not yet completed the inventory and classification of waste forms.

These statements throughout the 3,000 page document do not engender credibility or trust.

3

We have many questions that cannot be answered by the time DOE plans to issue decisions on this EIS. Some of these questions are to be "answered" in the tank closure decisions for which there is no draft EIS yet. How can the decisions from the various documents support each other in a holistic and comprehensive way when the Department continues to approach the issues of nuclear waste in a piecemeal fashion? The impacts of the tank wastes after treatment from whatever technologies you plan to use must be a part

3 | of this document. Are we going to bury these wastes on site? Will waste from the tanks and the trenches be permanently buried, will they be retrievable if your assumptions are wrong? We still have no decisions on the final form of the wastes—how can you show us accurate impacts for the short or long term?

4 | This EIS does not address the issue of digging up and treating waste from the Hanford Burial grounds. It shows the use of unlined trenches for waste burial. How can we use existing land and facilities for imported waste when we have yet to treat and dispose of the myriad volumes of our own waste to an acceptable degree of protection?

5 | Throughout this document, the Department has interwoven many of the premises put forth in last year's Performance Management Plan that proposed cost saving measures that played havoc with current laws. This administration has been the stealth bomber of environmental laws that lets industry off the hook and puts the welfare of the environment and the people at risk for centuries to come. One of these proposals which is found in and denied in the HSWEIS is moving the point at which one measures risk away from the source to a further point so as to lower the standards, thus minimizing the risks. This kind of action constitutes a change in policy, which is beyond the purview of an environmental impact statement.

7 | The Department of Energy is the bully in the school yard, forcing changes, some which could be for the better, but damaging so much trust along the way that we cannot afford to accept the alternatives of this EIS with their many assumptions. We need to see more immediate progress in the cleanup of Hanford before we can carry the burdens from the rest of the nation. We need to see tank waste put into a glass form. We want no further delays and changes of plans for the Waste Treatment Plant. We want the waste at Hanford treated and stored in the safest manner. We want to be assured of a defensible groundwater strategy that will protect the Columbia River. We want our values in this region respected and adhered to. We insist on a quality cleanup, by *our* standards—we live here, we rely on the health of the environment for our own survival, for fishing, recreation and crop irrigation for the long haul.

11 |
Paige Knight, President
HANFORD WATCH
2285 SE Cypress
503-232-0848